

It is not wholesome for the public, nor for the men who hold the offices, for our officials to have an indefinite tenure. Young men justly demand that they be given opportunity to show what they can do in the public service, without having to oppose men whose long possession of an office has well-nigh ripened into a fee-simple title. New blood will make for wholesome growth. I am satisfied that a constitutional amendment limiting State officers to two successive terms, and county officers to three successive terms, would result in increased efficiency and diminished strife. Of course, such an amendment ought not to apply to officers in the judicial, educational, and health departments.

THE SHORT BALLOT

I am thoroughly converted to the wisdom of the short ballot. When Woodrow Wilson, while he was Governor of New Jersey, spoke in the Capitol Square at Raleigh, he said that the old admonition, "Not to put all your eggs in one basket," was not political wisdom. Said he, "The thing for the public to do is to put all of its eggs in one basket and then watch that basket."

It is simply impossible for the average man in North Carolina who reads and takes a live interest in public affairs to acquaint himself sufficiently with all of the men who run for State administrative offices to pass upon them with any satisfaction to himself. Moreover, experience and observation teach that it is well-nigh impossible to induce men who are best qualified to hold administrative offices to run for them in State-wide primaries and in general elections. The Governor and the Lieutenant Governor of the State should be elected by the people, and all administrative officers should be appointed. I feel no embarrassment in taking this position, for the reason that the change in the law would require a constitutional amendment, and could not possibly be effective during the present administration.

THE STATE HOSPITALS

The saying of Wilson, "Put your eggs in one basket and watch that basket," applies to the management of our State hospitals for the insane. Under the present arrangement, with a different board of directors for each hospital, no director feels that any great responsibility rests on him. Some of the very wisest and best men who are now serving on these boards, and have served heretofore, have told me that it was impossible in the limited time given by the directors to the supervision of the institutions to acquire any adequate knowledge of their conduct. One director stated to me that he refused to further serve on a board because he was not willing to be held responsible by the public for the management of an